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PATENT

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 15, 17 and 26 as follows.

15. (Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising:

a1 (a) providing a core carrier coated with vector constructs carrying genomic DNA fragments derived or obtained from one or more pathogens, wherein the genomic DNA fragments contain an antigen coding sequence, and are greater than 5 kilobases in size; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the subject using a particle-mediated transdermal delivery technique, whereby antigen encoded by a coding sequence present in the genomic DNA fragments is expressed in the subject in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response.

a2 17. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the vector construct is a plasmid.

a3 26. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the vector construct is a cosmid.